

## Sexual Health

at the Wolverton 020 8974 9331

Kingston upon Thames, Surrey (South West London)

Kingston Hospital   
NHS Trust

[Home](#) | [Find us](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Links](#)

QUICK SEARCH

[Clinics & Times](#)

[Your Visit](#)

[Emergencies](#)

[Sexual Health  
Information](#)

[HIV Care](#)

[e-booking](#)

[Feedback](#)

[Network](#)

### STIs

#### Men

[Chlamydia](#)

[Gonorrhoea](#)

[Trichomonas](#)

[Urethritis](#)

[Lymphogranuloma  
venereum](#)

[Syphilis](#)

[Viral hepatitis](#)

[Genital warts](#)

[Herpes](#)

[Epididymo-orchitis](#)

[Scabies](#)

[Pubic lice](#)

[Molluscum contagiosum](#)

#### Women

[Gay/Bisexual](#)

### Contraception

### HIV

### Prevention

### Sex and the law

### Sex/adult entertainment industry

## YOUNG PEOPLE

### WOMEN

### MEN

### GAY / BISEXUAL

[Home](#) » [Sexual Health Information](#) » [STIs](#) » [Men](#) » [Epididymo-orchitis](#)

## Epididymo-orchitis

### Epididymo-orchitis in heterosexual men

#### What is epididymo-orchitis?

- Pain and swelling of the scrotum (ball bag) affecting the epididymis (epididymitis), the testicles (orchitis) or both (epididymo-orchitis).
- In young men under the age of 35 years it is usually caused by a sexually transmitted infection e.g. [chlamydia](#) or gonorrhoea.
- In older men over the age of 35 years it is usually caused by a non sexually transmitted infection causing urine infections.
- Prompt medical assessment is needed to rule out the possibility of testicular torsion which can lead to testicular atrophy.
- If you have epididymo-orchitis we recommend that you should have a full STI screen including an HIV test.
- Epididymo-orchitis is easily treated with antibiotics and rest.

#### How common is epididymo-orchitis?

- It occurs most commonly in young men aged 19- 40 years.

#### How do you catch epididymo-orchitis?

- In young men under the age of 35 years the most common cause is a sexually transmitted infection such as chlamydia or [gonorrhoea](#).
- In older men over the age of 35 years the most common cause is a urine infection - but it may also be caused by a sexually transmitted infection.
- It may also be caused by bacteria caught during insertive anal intercourse.
- Rarely epididymo-orchitis may be caused by other infections such as mumps or tuberculosis.

#### What would I notice if I had epididymo-orchitis?

- A rapid onset of pain and swelling in one of your testicles.
- Some men may also notice a discharge from the tip of the penis and/or pain on passing urine.
- Occasionally you may feel generally unwell with a fever.

#### How do I get tested for epididymo-orchitis?

- Epididymo-orchitis is diagnosed by a medical assessment, STI screen and urine test.
- It will be treated immediately at your first visit to the clinic.
- If there is any concern about a possible torsion of the testicles you will be referred immediately to the Accident & Emergency Department at Kingston Hospital for further assessment and scanning.

#### How is epididymo-orchitis treated?

- Epididymo-orchitis is treated with a mixture of antibiotics to cover the most likely infections.

- At the Wolverton you will usually be given:

- CEFTRIAXONE 250mg as a single injection

FOLLOWED BY

- DOXYCYCLINE 100mg capsule twice daily for 2 weeks

- You will be advised to rest, wear a scrotal support and take regular painkillers such as [ibuprofen](#).
- You will be reviewed again routinely in 2 weeks after completing your antibiotics.
- If your symptoms have not started to improve within 3 days you should attend the Wolverton again for an early review.
- Testicular pain and swelling frequently takes many weeks or months to completely settle following treatment.

### What about my partner?

- Epididymo-orchitis is usually caused by a sexually transmitted infection so it is important that all current female partners are have a full STI screen and are treated with antibiotics too.
- Sometimes ex partners will need to be tested too – you will be advised about this.
- Make sure that both you and your partner complete your courses of antibiotics before having sex again.
- For men where the cause has been confirmed as a urine infection, treatment of partners is not required.

### What happens if my epididymo-orchitis is left untreated?

- The testicular pain and swelling will last much longer.
- Untreated infection is more likely to lead to complications such as
  - chronic testicular pain
  - an abscess
  - rarely testicular atrophy and loss of fertility

### More information

[www.bashh.org.uk](http://www.bashh.org.uk)

## Opening times for advice and to book an appointment:

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 8.30am - 6.00pm  
 Wednesday 8.30am - 8.00pm  
 Friday 8.30am - 1.30pm

[For clinic times please select here](#)



NHS Trust 2010 | [Terms and Conditions of use](#) | Site by Phew